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CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENT.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

Accompanying the President's Message to Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, }
December 2, 1837. }

SIR: In compliance with your instructions, and in conformity with established usage, to present, annually, to you, for the information of Congress, a statement of the transactions of this Department, together with such suggestions in relation to the various subjects under its administration, as the public interests may seem to require, I have the honor to submit the following report.

It will be seen, by the statement of the Commanding General, that the principal part of the regular forces has been drawn from the posts on the frontiers and concentrated in Florida; and his account of the military transactions in that territory will exhibit the progress of the war to the close of the last, and the events attending the commencement of the present campaign. The proposals made by the Indians to submit to the terms of the treaty, and the negotiations entered into with them to this effect, caused the cessation of hostilities at a period when they might have been carried on to advantage.

This measure, on the part of the General commanding the army of the South, although productive of delay and increased expense, was dictated by humanity and a laudable desire to avoid, if practicable, the necessity of further enforcing, by arms, the execution of the treaty, and was approved by the Department. Nor can any just blame be attached to the conduct of that officer for keeping his faith with the Indians, and rather suffering himself to be deceived by them than to violate his engagements by securing the chiefs who had entered his camp and placed themselves in his power, under the pledge of receiving his protection.

The enemy proved faithless, and the season for active operations passed away without any important results. Great expense was incurred in preparations for the removal of the Indians, which their treachery rendered abortive; but the honor of the Government, which is beyond all price, was preserved; and it is satisfactory to know that the renewal of hostilities has only taken place after every effort had been tried in vain to persuade these deluded people to submit peaceably to the execution of the law. It is unnecessary to recapitulate the circumstances which led to this war; they are already well understood; but it may be important to state the causes which enabled an enemy, so inferior in number and resources, to baffle the efforts of the Government to subdue them, and which have rendered the contest not only so disastrously protracted, but so very expensive. The theatre of war, remarkable for its natural difficulties, was entirely unknown to the commanding officers of our army. They were compelled to move their forces with the utmost caution in the face of a bold, active, and wily foe, thoroughly acquainted with the passes of the rivers and morasses which intersect the country, and who hovered about their flanks, concentrating their numbers upon a point of attack, with unexampled rapidity, and flying from the open ground with a swiftness that baffled the pursuit of the white man. The difficulties of transportation, on which the success of all military operations must depend, always great, and, in such a country, involving unusual labor, expense, and delay, were, in some cases, insurmountable. In several instances,

when within reach of the enemy, our troops were compelled to fall back upon their magazines or baggage trains for supplies, and thus lose the opportunity of striking an effective blow, because the subsistence stores could not be brought up for their use. Wherever it was possible, supplies were transported by water to points near the theatre of operations; but having to ascend rivers, steamboats were necessarily employed, at an enormous cost to the Government. From these points the transportation became still more expensive, as well as difficult and dangerous; numerous and well appointed escorts had to be furnished; wagons to be dragged over pathless tracts of spongy pine barren, through almost impassable swamps, and across marshy rivers: temporary magazines to be built, and posts to be established in the wilderness, to which further supplies of provisions and forage were to be brought, for the country is entirely destitute of both, and the baggage train can transport its own forage for a few days' consumption only. When it is considered that these difficulties had to be encountered and surmounted by raw, undisciplined troops, in the face of an active enemy that destroys unseen, delivering a deadly fire at an unexpected moment, and disappearing in morasses, impenetrable to the eye of the white man, the zeal and persevering courage of our officers and men are worthy of all praise. It is under such circumstances that our Indian allies have proved so useful. Their peculiar sagacity in detecting the stratagems of their race, and their untiring vigilance and activity in the field, are the best protection against the ambuscades, night assaults, and surprises, which constitute the warfare of these tribes, and are so harassing and destructive to our troops. To the strong arms and brave hearts of our own men, we may safely rely for victory in action; but we must depend upon the Indian to detect the lurking place of the Indian, to trace him in his devious path and rapid flight, to guard against his wily approach, and to discover his deadly presence at every difficult pass. For these reasons, the friendly Creeks were employed in the army of the South, during the last campaign; but as it had been found necessary to detain their families at great expense until they could all be transported together to the west, they were discharged, and are on their way to their new homes. Before their departure, measures were taken to supply their place by engaging Indians of other tribes. In extending the necessary orders, a clerical error was made, by which the Indians were offered higher pay than the law allows to volunteers. The error was corrected as soon as discovered; but as about two hundred men have been brought to Florida under the first instructions, I beg leave to suggest that an appropriation be asked of Congress to enable the department to preserve its faith with these Indians, which I venture to hope will not be refused.

Another cause of unusual expense is to be found in the character of the troops employed. At first they were drafted men or volunteers, engaged for so short a period of service as to render their employment not only expensive; but inefficient; and when they were engaged for a longer time, the inexperience of their staff officers occasioned great and unnecessary expenditures, while the description of force, chiefly mounted men, augmented very much the cost of the campaign. The remuneration this irregular cavalry received from Government, merely for the use of their horses, amounted, in six months, to a sum nearly, if not quite, equal to their real value. The Government has had, besides, to pay a large amount for horses that perished for want of forage, which the State of

the country rendered it impracticable to transport in sufficient quantities for the supply of so large a body of cavalry. The irregular force thus employed in Florida, during the campaign of 1836, amounted to about 10,000 men; one-half of which were cavalry, at an expense greatly exceeding that of regular troops, and by no means so efficient as one-half the number of that description of force.

Notwithstanding the experience gained during the two last campaigns showed the great cost of employing volunteers, the department had no alternative but to engage them again, which the patriotic offers of the citizens from every part of the country enabled it to do. The nature of the climate of Florida requires that the active operations of the campaign should be concentrated in a short period of time, and this can only be effected by bringing into the field a much greater number of troops than would otherwise be necessary. The regular force, although collected from every point, was deemed inadequate, and resort has been had to militia in order to make up, with the regulars, four columns, having each the component parts of an army sufficient to encounter the whole force of the enemy, and destined to move into the interior of the peninsula from distinct points of the coast. Added to these means of offensive operations, the squadron on that station may be confidently relied upon to scour the coast and intercept all communications from without, and in every way practicable to contribute, by its co-operation, to the success of the land forces.

Throughout the whole conduct of this war, the West India squadron has co-operated with the army in the most active and efficient manner, not only by promptly furnishing every aid which the appropriate duties of that branch of the service required, but by the officers taking upon themselves the defence of posts on shore, and lending the aid of their professional skill, in every situation in which it could be usefully applied, with that persevering courage, zeal, and ability which have, at all times, distinguished our gallant navy. The revenue cutters, placed under the command of the commodore of that squadron, have likewise rendered the most efficient service, under the direction of that excellent officer. Part of the marine corps, which volunteered its services in Florida, and distinguished itself during the last campaign, still remains there, and it is hoped that they may be permitted to continue their valuable services to the army of the south, until the close of the war.

The events of this war, and the heavy expenses attending it, have shown the propriety, and even necessity, of increasing and organizing the staff, and of augmenting the army of the United States. In the last annual report from this department, this measure is strongly recommended, and the reasons for its adoption ably urged. I do not think, however, that the manner of augmenting the forces proposed by the bill which received the favorable action of one branch of the Legislature, ought to be carried into effect. The organization of the army, when it was reduced to the peace establishment, ought not to be abandoned. It is fitted to render the greatest service in time of peace, and to afford a basis for the augmentation of the effective forces of the country to a much greater extent in time of war. The arrangement should not, therefore, be disturbed, but the same system carried out in making new levies. I would recommend the addition of three regiments of infantry, and that the companies, both of artillery and infantry, should be increased to sixty-four rank and file, with authority vested in the President to augment their number, not to exceed one hundred men, whenever the exigencies of the country may require it. This would secure all the advantages of the present peace establishment. And enable the Executive, on any sudden emergency, to place the army on a respectable footing of defence.

Sound policy and an enlightened economy equally require that every department of the staff of the army should be augmented. A properly organized staff would have rendered the conduct of the war in which we have lately been engaged, both more effective and more economical. As the army is now constituted, officers are drawn off for staff duties, to the great injury of the service of the line; and these duties are by no means so well performed as they would be by officers properly instructed, and entirely devoted to them. The present organization does not give to regiments or companies any supernumerary officers. They are no more than the performance of the various duties of their military command actually requires, and to reduce the number must weaken the army, render it irregular and inefficient in its operations, and greatly impair its discipline. Such, however, is the present defective state of every branch of the staff, that all are supplied from subalterns of the line. The department of the Quartermaster General, the Commissary General, the Engineers, the Ordnance, the Paymaster General, and the Topographical corps, are all compelled to make drafts from the line of the army for the performance of their indispensable duties; and the returns of the Adjutant General's Office, of the regiments in the field during the last campaigns in Alabama and Florida, exhibit a lamentable deficiency of officers to fulfil the duties properly belonging to them.

The Quartermaster's Department requires not only some enlargement, but the addition of higher grades to render it adequate to the duties required of it. The functions of this branch of the staff, comprising, as they do, the quartering, supplying, and moving the army, with all its stores, and the execution of various objects of national improvement, are important at all times; but they become peculiarly so in seasons of active operations, like the present, when large bodies of irregular troops are necessarily called into service to aid our limited regular force.

The deficiency in the number of officers provided for this service has been sensibly felt from the commencement of our late border disturbances, and especially during the past season; and with respect to higher grades than those now authorized, experience has clearly shown the necessity of some clothed with the adequate ranks to enable them to take the charge of remote districts, and supervise the expenditure, and direct and control the complicated operations of the department in the field. It is certain that there can be no effective military operations without a high degree of efficiency in that branch of the staff which is to move and supply the army. I would, therefore, recommend the addition of some officers of rank, with a limited number of that subordinate but useful class of agents, forage, wagon, and barrack-masters.

The department of the Adjutant General is entirely inadequate to perform its appropriate duties, even to our small army, and I respectfully recommend that it be enlarged so as to supply assistant adjutants general to each division and department of the army.

Since the establishment of the Commissariat of subsistence, great regularity and economy have been introduced in furnishing the supplies of the army; but in order to render it more complete, and to enable it to perform all the duties assigned to it, in the most economical and efficient manner, I recommend an addition to the present establishment of at least four officers.

I would recommend an immediate increase of the corps of topographical engineers. The extensive range of duties which have of late years devolved upon this corps, renders its increase a matter of necessity as well as of economy. It is physically impracticable, as the corps is now constituted, to obey the injunctions of Congress. Important surveys are

neglected; works of improvement are slowly and imperfectly carried on, and the expectations of the country disappointed.

By a reference to the statements of the officer at the head of that branch of the service, it will be seen that the entire corps consists but of ten officers, and to these it has been found necessary to add, during the present year, about thirty individuals, employed as civil engineers, at compensations greater than are allowed to military engineers; thus making the entire cost of this branch of service much greater than it would be in the form of a properly organized corps. In addition to this consideration, discipline and a proper subordination cannot be introduced in a mixed service, where the smaller part only is subject to the rules and articles of war, the greater being entirely exempt, and without those positive distinctions of authority and rank, upon which discipline so eminently depends.

The duties of this corps require the combined knowledge of the military and civil engineers. Their military duties consist in surveys for the defence of the frontier, inland and Atlantic, and of positions for fortifications; in reconnoissances of the country through which an army has to pass, or in which it has to operate; the examination of all routes of communication by land or water, both for supplies and for military movements; the construction of military bridges; the position and erection of field works; the defences of encampments, fords, ferries and bridges. For these purposes, topographical engineers should always accompany armies in the field, and without their aid the organization of a staff is defective and incomplete. Their civil employment, in the survey of the coast, rivers, harbors, bays, and water-courses, in order to their being improved for commercial and other purposes, and in superintending the various works for these improvements; in surveys of roads and canals under the law of the 30th of April, 1824; and in conducting all civil constructions connected with the commerce of the country, and such international communications as Congress may direct. This brief recapitulation of the various military and civil duties of the corps, clearly points out the necessity of its complete organization, and indicates the propriety of attaching it to the general staff of the army. The direction of all the works, both civil and military, herein described, properly belongs to this branch of the service. A simple enumeration of the functions of the Quartermaster General will show that the duties of his office cannot be performed without the assistance of the officers of the topographical corps. They are to insure an efficient system of supply, and to give facility and effect to the movements and operations of the army, which cannot be accomplished without a thorough knowledge of the topography of the country. It is his duty, likewise, to select sites for encampments, and to assign to the different corps the ground they are to occupy; a duty which requires the aid of topographical engineers; as does the superintendence of the works at the several posts; the construction of military roads; the acquisition of such knowledge as the department is expected to possess with regard to the military resources of the country; the means and facilities of transportation; the state of the frontiers, with the most eligible points for concentrating troops and collecting supplies, whether in relation to offensive or defensive operations. This information cannot be obtained without the active co-operation of the topographical corps.

I cannot dismiss this subject without adverting to the opinion of my predecessor, in relation to the employment of the topographical engineers of the army by States and incorporated companies, in which I fully concur. At a period when it became a practice of the Government to permit these officers to aid in the construction of the public works in the several

States, the description of talent and knowledge which they possessed was uncommon in our country, and works of great public utility would have been suspended or abandoned altogether, if this permission had been withheld. A different state of things now exists. The demand for civil engineers has created them, and not only is it no longer necessary to aid States and companies, by lending them officers of the army, but in doing so an act of injustice is committed toward the civil engineers of the country. There can be no doubt that the practice impairs, very sensibly, the efficiency of the corps as a branch of the army, and deprives the Government of their services for military surveys, and the erection and superintendence of works of national utility. The commander of the army of the south says emphatically, in a late communication to the Adjutant General, "Had the topographical engineers been employed in their appropriate duties in Florida, only one year of the sixteen since we have obtained possession of the country, from two to three millions of dollars might have been saved in the expenditures of the war." The ignorance of the topography of the country, here complained of, exists with regard to other important regions of our country, which will, probably, sooner or later, become the theatres of war; and I earnestly hope the Department will have it in its power to remedy this defect, by confining the members of the corps to their appropriate duties of examining and surveying the country for the purposes of national improvements and national defence, and superintending the erection of national works.

Having stated the increase which appears to me indispensably necessary to render the several parts of the general staff of the army effective, it becomes my duty to submit to your consideration the defects of the present system, and to suggest a better organization of this most useful and important branch of the service. On examining the functions of each of the separate divisions, it will be seen that in the moving and subsisting the army, providing for clothing and supplies, including transportation, barracks, camp equipage, and all things necessary for the health, comfort, and efficiency of the troops, the duties of every branch of the general staff are so connected and dependent upon each other, that the best planned measures may be defeated by the failure or neglect of any one of them; notwithstanding which they are distinct bodies, entirely independent of each other, differently organized, governed by different regulations, and although purely military in their functions, depending only upon the civil authority at the head of the Department of War. Such an arrangement is complex, and incompatible with the uniformity and subordination which ought to distinguish the organization of every branch of the military service. I recommend, therefore, that there be created a staff corps, to consist of one brigadier general, chief of the staff; six colonels, six lieutenant colonels, eight majors, twenty captains, and twenty first lieutenants, who shall exercise all the functions, and perform all the duties at present exercised and performed by the Quartermaster General, Adjutant General, Inspectors General, Commissary General of Subsistence, and their assistants, and also by the topographical engineers and assistant topographical engineers; and that the Commissariat of Purchases, and the medical staff of the army be attached to the said staff corps; thus uniting under one head a homogeneous body, sufficiently numerous to ensure promotion within itself, create an *esprit de corps*, excite emulation and keep alive hope. This organization, at the same time that it secures uniformity and efficiency to the operations of the staff, is entirely compatible with its present division into separate bureaus, and will not disturb the existing relations of the present officers of the corps with the branch to which they are now attached.

This increase of the rank and file and staff of the army here recommended, by which its efficiency would be greatly augmented, and its administration rendered much more economical, has become necessary, independently of the causes assigned, from our greatly extended frontier, from the number and description of our maritime fortresses, and from the large body of Indians which the humane and enlightened policy pursued by the Government towards that people has concentrated upon our western borders. When, in 1821, the army was reduced to 6,127 men, the extent of our frontier did not exceed 6,373 miles, along the inland portion of which the Indian tribes were sparsely scattered, a large proportion of their numbers being within the States, and rendered harmless by the surrounding white population; and the maritime frontier was occupied by a few inconsiderable forts. Since that period, its extent has been increased, by the acquisition of Florida and other causes, to 8,500 miles; most of our principal harbors and bays have been fortified by extensive works; and the Indians concentrated upon the western line so as to present a front of not less than 45,000 warriors. The protection due by the Government to the inhabitants of this extensive and exposed portion of our country, would require a much larger force than is here proposed, if their safety were made to depend entirely upon the regular army; and I would respectfully recommend the construction of a chain of permanent fortresses along that line, and a competent organization of the militia of the frontier States, as important and necessary auxiliaries for this purpose. If any danger is to be apprehended from an army of fifteen thousand men, scattered along a frontier of more than 8,000 miles, and commanded by officers educated to reverence the laws and cherish the freedom of their country, it is effectually to be guarded against by a proper organization of the militia. Their aggregate force now is little short of a million and a half of men, and whatever may be their efficiency against a foreign enemy, they may always be relied upon when the liberties of their country are assailed.

That the necessity of this measure may be fully understood, I have annexed statements, furnished by the Chief Engineer, exhibiting the number and names of the different fortifications completed and under construction, and the full armament and amount of force which each requires to arm and garrison it; of the works projected by the Board of Engineers, but which are not yet commenced; and for the prominent points along the sea frontier which require protection, and for which no plans or projects have yet been made; and a list of the posts on the inland frontier of the United States, with a notice of the garrisons deemed necessary for them in time of peace, and to preserve peace, furnished by the acting quartermaster general.

The measures of defence for the border settlements, which the policy of the Government towards the Indians has rendered it their imperative duty to adopt, have engaged the anxious consideration of this department, and the matter will be fully treated, in answer to a call of Congress for information on that subject.

The report of the Chief Engineer, which is herewith submitted, contains a summary of the numerous and important works under the superintendence of this branch of the service. It is manifest, from a review of this document, that some further increase of this corps is rendered necessary, from the great accumulation of the public works confided to its charge. But the high order of talent, united to great acquirements, which have hitherto distinguished this corps, and which are required in the discharge of duties involving not only large expenditures, but, in many cases, the safety and honor of the country, demand that this should be done

with the utmost caution. The youth who exhibit the greatest aptitude for such studies, and who, in their progress through the military academy, distinguished themselves above their fellows, and are deemed worthy to enter this corps by those who are appointed by Government to decide the relative merit of the candidates, ought alone to be added to it; nor should they be placed in charge of any work until they have been at least two years assistants to some older and more experienced officers. It is due to this corps to say that their pay and emoluments are insufficient for their support. Performing duties that require the exercise of talents and attainments which, in civil life, command the highest rate of remuneration, and in a manner honorable to themselves and useful to the country, they receive a less amount of pay than any other branch of the service. I beg leave, therefore, respectfully to recommend that the officers of this corps be placed on the same footing as those of the cavalry of the United States. A proper regard to the interests of this branch of the public service induces me to recommend the appointment of an inspector of fortifications, with the rank of colonel, whose duty it shall be, under the orders of the Chief Engineer, to make regular and systematic inspections of all the fortifications and public works under the superintendence of that officer.

The very important work of deepening the channel at the mouth of the Mississippi has not yet been commenced. Three plans were submitted by Captain Chase, of the engineers, who was entrusted with the necessary examinations; first, by deepening one or more passes by dredging; second, by closing all but one pass, where they leave the trunk of the river; and, thirdly, by cutting a ship channel from the river. The Engineer Department suggested the propriety of adopting the first plan, as the least costly and the soonest executed; and preparations were made, and all things in readiness to commence the work by the middle of December. In consequence, however, of representations received by the department from the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, the whole matter was submitted to a Board of Engineers, consisting of Col. Totten, Col. Thayer, and Capt. Chase, who have required further preliminary surveys, in order to enable them to form a correct opinion as to the character of the works most likely to be successful in improving the navigation of the mouths of this river; a request which, considering the very important nature of the works, and their bearing upon the commerce of the whole valley of the Mississippi, and its tributaries, has been acceded to by the department.

The operations on the great raft, in the Red river, closed on the 25th of May, for want of funds, with the exception of one boat, which worked until the end of June.

During the season, twelve miles and a half of this dense mass of wood, comprising the remaining portion of what is styled the Old Rafts, have been removed. The part now remaining, being four hundred and forty yards in length, was formed by the freshet of 1836, and is by no means so dense or difficult to remove; and the timber of this portion of it will be employed to stop up the only bayou which now remains to be closed. It is estimated that the cost of completing the operation, which will effectually open the navigation of this river, throughout its whole course, will amount to fifty thousand dollars. If the appropriation be made early in the next session, the work may be completed, or nearly so, by May next; otherwise, it must lie over until the autumn of 1838, to the serious injury of the increasing population of the valley of the river, and to the great detriment of the work itself, from the constant accumulation of drift timber, which must necessarily take place until there is a free current in the river. If the work be delayed, the superinten-

dent estimates that the increased expense, from this cause alone, will amount to twenty thousand dollars.

The act of the 2d July, 1836, which appropriates \$100,000 for surveying and opening a military road along the western frontier, imposes on the President the duty of selecting situations near it for the military posts which, in his opinion, may be most proper for the protection of the frontier, and for the preservation of the necessary communications. On taking up this subject for consideration, it appeared manifest that the conditions of defence, which it is supposed Congress had in view in making this appropriation, could not be fulfilled, if the road were surveyed and opened before the sites for the permanent military stations were determined upon; as, without a knowledge of their ultimate position, the road might not approach them sufficiently near to afford "the necessary communications" contemplated by the act.

The selection of these sites has to be made without regard to lateral communications, but with a view to the tribes in front, and to the facility of approach from the rear. I am also of opinion that the contemplated communications, in reference to the security of the fortresses and the protection of the borders, ought to be perpendicular to the line of defence, and not lateral.

Parties are now making the required examinations, and as soon as they are completed, and the sites for permanent posts determined upon, the survey and works for opening the road designated by Congress will be commenced, unless, upon a review of the subject, they may think proper to adopt the plan of defence for the western frontier, which, as has been before observed, will be presented to them in accordance with a resolution of the Senate to that effect.

The state of Charleston harbor demanded and received the early attention of the department. It was represented that Sullivan's island was being washed away, and the channels, which form the entrance of the harbor, filling up with the sand from its beach. By direction of the Engineer Department, a minute examination of the situation of the island was made in June last, by Lieutenant Mansfield, who submitted a plan for its protection against the encroachments of the sea, that was approved by this department.

It is stated, in the report of the engineer, that the island, and southwestern peninsula, will be entirely carried away by the action of the currents and storms, unless timely measures be adopted to arrest the progress of destruction; that this island shelters the port of Charleston from the fury of the northeastern storms; and that its destruction would expose the harbor to the violent gales of the autumnal equinox, by leaving it open from northeast to southeast, besides the probability of lessening the depth of water on the bars.

Independently of the necessity of the proposed works for the preservation of the port, they are essential for its defence. The island forms the site of Fort Moultrie, which checked the approach of the British squadron during the Revolutionary war, and now constitutes in conjunction with Fort Sumter, the only defence of this important harbor. These considerations induce me to recommend that an appropriation be asked of Congress to commence these works without delay.

It is my duty to call your attention to the present state of the works for the protection of the waters of the Chesapeake. Fort Monroe will require further repairs, and new works, to render it even defensible. One front of the fort is peculiarly liable to attack, for it is more exposed to a *coup de main* than any other, and is, at the same time, the only front liable to siege, and the only one exposed to land batteries within reasonable distance. The works intend-

ed to protect this front were commenced, and a large body of earth collected to complete them, and so arranged as, in some measure, to shelter the vital part, until the whole should be completed. From some misunderstanding, without the knowledge or participation of the Engineer Department, this mound was levelled. Earth has also been placed upon the parapet wall. These operations have proved injurious to the works, and immediate measures must be taken to repair the evils they have produced. In loading the parapet it was found that the masonry was not sufficiently dry and consolidated to bear the pressure of the great superincumbent weight; and although, from their original strength and solidity, the walls have not yet sustained any material injury, still it is of a nature to call for prompt repairs. I recommend, therefore, that proper measures to protect this fort from a *coup de main*, to which it is now so evidently exposed as to invite attack, be adopted without delay, together with the necessary repairs to strengthen the existing works. From an examination of the state of the works at the Rip Raps, it appears that the subsidence of the artificial foundation of stone, on which it is intended to erect Fort Calhoun, has not yet entirely ceased; and orders have been given to replace the mass of materials, collected for the completion of the fort, upon the arches, in such a manner as to render the subsidence uniform; and when this is done, it will be prudent to leave it there for some time longer, before recommencing the work.

The great difficulty which has been experienced, in fixing upon a suitable site for the new fort ordered to be constructed on or near the Arkansas frontier, and in determining its precise position, has occasioned unusual and unexpected delay in the commencement of the work. The commissioners appointed to make the selection, by my predecessor, being military men, fixed upon a site, with a single eye to its military properties; whereas, it is believed to have been the intention of Congress to erect a fortress which would serve as a refuge for the border settlers, who are exposed, from their situation, to the hostile incursions of the Indians; and it became necessary to direct a subsequent examination, in order to meet that object. A board of competent officers was accordingly appointed, and proceeded in the execution of this duty. Their report may be looked for daily, and the work will be commenced as soon as the situation is fixed upon by the Department.

From a variety of causes, not necessary to recapitulate here, but chiefly from a disputed title, which has been only recently decided by the courts, the land on which Fort Delaware is situated has not yet been acquired by the Government. The Pea Patch island might have been purchased, when the fort was projected, for, comparatively, a small sum, and, since the commencement of its construction, was offered to the United States for a slightly advanced price. Since the decree in their favor, one hundred thousand dollars, with interest from that date, are asked for it by the proprietors; and it remains to be decided whether this large sum shall be paid for the land, or the works be abandoned.

The importance of having a fort upon this island, in order to protect the harbor of Philadelphia, has been recognised by every board of military engineers that have examined the subject. It is the lowest point at which, in connection with works upon the main land, Philadelphia is defensible; and, while it covers that harbor, Chester, and Newcastle, prevents an enemy from finding shelter in Delaware bay, secures the debouché of an important link in the great inland chain of water communication, the Delaware and Chesapeake canal, and covers the extensive powder manufactories near Wilmington. For these reasons, it is important the United States should possess it; but whether it is to be acquired at the price now asked for it, or after an equitable appraisement

of its real value, is a subject to be decided by the wisdom of Congress. In the mean time, the works in progress there will render its abandonment more costly hereafter, and may enhance, still further, the value of the island. An early decision is, therefore, highly desirable.

The ordnance corps, organized in 1832, requires some enlargement, in order to render it efficient. At present, there is not an officer to superintend each arsenal, and it appears to me that the public interest will be promoted by the addition of two majors and ten first lieutenants. But, above all, this branch of the service demands the creation, by law, of a mixed board of artillery and ordnance, to be composed of officers of rank and experience. Similar boards have been formed from time to time, by regulations of the War Department; but experience proves the necessity of some legal enactment, to ensure the due performance of this important duty; for, up to this time, there exists no general system, such as I propose, and such as is absolutely necessary to place this branch of the service on a level with that of other countries, and preserve it there.

Doubts having been entertained, by my predecessor in office, of the power of the department to enter into contracts for supplies of cannon and arms, without previous advertisement, it has become the practice of the ordnance office to make informal arrangements with the proprietors of foundries and manufactories of arms, to receive a certain amount of cannon and muskets, on inspection, at a settled price; an engagement equally binding as a written contract on the part of the department, but uncertain in its obligation upon the manufacturer. The former method of contracting for limited periods, is, in every respect, preferable. These establishments require expensive preparations, and having no other market than that afforded by the demand of Government, ought to have some assurance of the articles they may manufacture being taken off their hands. A contract for a limited period gives this assurance, enabling them to secure the most competent workmen, and encouraging them to render their machinery as perfect as possible. A recent opinion of the Attorney General declares this method to be legal; and it will be followed in future, unless prohibited by legislative enactment. The existence of our own armories enables the Government to establish a standard of comparison, to which the private manufacturers are compelled to conform, and secures the acquisition of good arms, at equitable prices. With the same view, the establishment of a national foundry has been frequently urged, and I beg leave, respectfully, to repeat the recommendation. It is not intended this establishment should, at once, furnish the amount of cannon and projectiles required; but it would enable the Ordnance Department to make the necessary trials and experiments, so as to determine the proper mixture of metals to combine the greatest strength with the greatest lightness, and produce the most perfect models. This would secure, at all times, a sufficient supply of the best arms, at fair prices. Intending to submit a plan by which the casting of cannon and projectiles, and the manufacture of gunpowder, shall be placed under the supervision of a joint board of the united service of army and navy, the proposed establishment will, if adopted, be made useful to both branches of the service.

The erection of a manufactory of small arms west of the Alleghany mountains, cannot be too strongly recommended. The transportation of the armament required by the western portion of our Union, is very expensive, and ought to be avoided. It appears to me that the establishment best suited for that country, is one for finishing, polishing, and putting together, the several parts of the musket, to be made by individual artisans, after models furnished them by the superintendent, and received on inspection. In this manner the works can be curtailed or ex-

tended to any amount that may be required, without inconvenience, and this description of manufacture become familiar to a large class of mechanics. The building and fixtures, suitable for this purpose, would be much less expensive than those of the present national armories, and, unlike them, the number of arms fabricated might be increased tenfold, without requiring any addition to the original establishment. This armory might embrace the manufacture and inspection of rifles for the supply of the friendly Indians, of which numbers are now purchased annually.

Disputes have arisen with persons who withhold the rent lead due by them to the United States, under the terms of a license to smelt lead ore on lands belonging to Government; and, on full consideration of this subject, I think it my duty to state that, in my opinion, the reservations of the lands in the lead region, and the plan now pursued of collecting rent on their produce, for the use of Government, whatever may have been its former advantages, is now prejudicial to that portion of the country where they are situated, and injurious to the interests it was intended to foster. Individuals will not engage in extensive, systematic, and costly works, such as are required in mining operations, without some better security than a mere license for smelting ore. Nothing more is done, therefore, than to scarify the surface of the earth, and the mine is given up at a time when it yields most ore, because its further extraction would require an outlay not justified by the tenure of the land. The miner then removes to another spot, where the same process is followed, and the whole region is dotted over with these imperfect and abandoned works. Whereas, if these lands were brought into market, to be sold at moderate prices, in small tracts, to those who will actually settle there and work the mines, they might be purchased by enterprising and industrious individuals, who would erect permanent works, develop fully the mineral resources of that region, and render iron and lead so abundant and cheap, that Government would be benefited by the reduction in the price there of articles of which it is so large a consumer, as well as by the general improvement of that portion of the country. For these reasons, it appears expedient that authority be asked of Congress to dispose of these lands; and also of all ore banks and lands containing minerals, of any description whatsoever, under the control of the War Department.

The accompanying report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs contains a full and lucid statement of the various and important matters under the control of that office. The complicated and arduous duties of that branch of the War Department have been performed in a manner highly creditable to the officers charged with their execution. But there are some important subjects connected with the duties, which require the early attention of Congress. The Commissioner represents "that the present system of disbursing, through the agency of military officers, has proved inconvenient, in consequence of their frequent transfer to other duties;" and it is, in my opinion, liable to still stronger objections, as it imposes upon these officers duties foreign to their profession, and of great responsibility, abstracts them from their regiments, and, not unfrequently, unfits them to return to them. I would recommend that this method of disbursing these funds be abandoned and a sufficient number of civil agents be appointed, so that disbursements may be made by persons giving bond for the faithful discharge of their duties. I concur with the Commissioner in the propriety of providing, by law, for the more liberal compensation of agents and interpreters. On their faithful execution of the trust reposed in them depends the success of all our efforts to civilize the tribes, and maintain the peace of the frontiers; and the price now paid for such important services is not equiva-

lent to that received by the same class of persons in the employment of trading companies, whose interests are not, I am sorry to say, identical with those of the Government, and whose conduct too frequently counteracts the humane policy of the United States towards the Indians.

In accordance with the opinion of the Commissioner, I would recommend the passage of a law, by which all sums accruing on moneys invested for the use of the several Indian tribes, be deposited in the Treasury, to be drawn out upon the requisitions of this department, in the usual form; and, further, that the whole business connected with the investment of the funds, for the interest of the Indians, and the management thereof, be transferred from this department to that of the Treasury, to which it properly belongs.

Intelligence was received at this department early in the spring, that the Indians were in an unquiet state on our northwestern frontier; and apprehensions were expressed that the hostile feelings which existed between the Sioux and the Sacs and Foxes, might endanger the peace of our border settlements. Sensible of the weakness of our forces in that quarter, having been compelled, from the state of our army, to strip both the inland and maritime frontiers of their garrisons, to supply the army of Florida with a sufficient regular force, it was deemed most prudent to bring down to the seat of Government the principal chiefs of those warlike tribes. It is believed to be important to exhibit to those people the strength of the nation with which they would have to contend in venturing to attack our defenceless borders, and, at the same time, to impress upon them the advantages which flow from civilization. With several of these tribes it was made our duty to treat; and it would have been in a high degree imprudent, in the excited state of feeling which existed among them, to assemble large bodies in the neighborhood of our ungarrisoned posts, thereby exposing our utmost weakness, at a period when it was important to display our utmost strength. The superintendents were, therefore, instructed to invite them to send deputations of their chiefs to Washington; and, on their arrival here, treaties were negotiated with several of the tribes, by which large tracts of land have been purchased, and the object so much desired by Government, to extinguish the title to all the Indian land east of the Mississippi, nearly accomplished. The Sioux of the Mississippi have ceded their possessions east of that stream, together with all the islands belonging to them, and are to remove to the western shore. The Winnebagoes have at length agreed to dispose of their lands in East Wisconsin, and retire to the neutral ground on the west of the river. It is probable that their sojourn there will be temporary, and, therefore, a portion only of the neutral ground has been allotted to them, with permission to hunt upon the remainder. The interests of the country appear to require the existence of a line of frontier States between the Mississippi and the Missouri; and the extinguishment of the Indian title to all the land east of the Missouri, to the 43 deg. of north latitude, would effect that object. With that view, the Winnebagoes would have been at once removed south of the Missouri, had the country been previously explored, and a tract of land of sufficient extent set apart for their future permanent residence. The situation of that tribe, fast sinking under the degrading influences which surround them, and pressed upon by the whites, renders it a measure of humanity to remove them promptly across the Mississippi; but they were given to understand that they were not to consider the neutral ground as their permanent home. A treaty, likewise, has been negotiated by Governor Dodge, with the Chippewas, by which that tribe ceded a large tract of country east of the Mississippi, and have agreed to retire to lands west of that river.

A mistake had been committed by the surveyors of the United States, in determining the boundary line of the land ceded to the Government by the confederated tribes of the Sacs and Foxes, by the treaty of September, 1832, and it was immediately determined to do justice to the Indian proprietors of the soil, and correct the mistake. The true line, however, would have excluded a fine portion of country, which was already settled and improved; and whatever may be the ultimate policy the Government may think proper to adopt towards the settlers who improve new and unoccupied lands, in order to acquire a title to them by future purchase, the department is of opinion that, so long as custom, and the practice of Government, sanction their acquiring rights by such means, their claims ought to be respected; and, therefore, entered into negotiation with the Sacs and Foxes, to extinguish their title to this strip of country; in doing so, it was deemed expedient to establish a line that will no longer be subject to doubt or dispute.

In this treaty, as in all the Indian treaties concluded at Washington, regard has been paid to the permanent benefit of the several tribes. Provision is made for the establishment of schools, as well as for instructing the people in the arts of husbandry, and for the investment of the purchase money so as to secure to the Indians a perpetual rent, a portion of which is to be applied in such manner as you may deem most useful and beneficial to them.

Much more remains to be done, in order to insure the faithful application of the funds destined for the support and comfort of the Indians. It now appears that their annuities really go into the coffers of the traders, in payment of debts incurred, in a great measure, by the idle and dissolute, but which are charged to the whole nation, and paid out of the common fund. The effect of such an arrangement is obvious. It encourages the vicious, and deprives the industrious of all incentive to exertion. The whole of this subject is of such vast importance, both as regards the condition of the tribes, and the character of the Government, that I propose to treat it in a separate report, and to suggest such improvements in the existing laws and regulations, as may insure the faithful application of their funds to the individual wants of the Indians.

Of the propriety of persevering in the system of removing the Indians beyond the evil influences which surround them within the States and Territories, and which were fast working their destruction, there can be no doubt. In its origin, the Government appears to have been actuated only by considerations of policy and expediency; but subsequently a better spirit prevailed in our intercourse with the red men, and their removal from beyond the limit of the States and Territories, rendered imperative by the peculiar circumstances of their situation, was connected with liberal and beneficial provisions for the amelioration of their condition. From a frontier people, roaming free and unrestrained over trackless forests and extensive plains, and subsisting on the products of the chase, they had suddenly, by the rapid spread of the whites, become communities, surrounded by an agricultural, enterprising, and enlightened people, seeking to develop the resources of the country, and, in their eagerness to obtain possession of their lands, pressing them into the narrowest limits. Deprived of their only resource, from the diminution of the game, and incapable, or unwilling, to resort to agriculture for subsistence, their situation became deplorable, and their distress was still further aggravated by the decisions which deprived them of the protection of the General Government, and extended the jurisdiction of the States over them. The inaptitude of the Indian character to conform to a state of society, moulded and regulated by a system of laws based on the principles and habits of civilized life, and adapted to give security to its multifarious

pursuits and interests, all differing from their own, is obvious. The only alternative was removal beyond the limits of the States, and the beneficent hand of the Government was extended to relieve that people from the operation of laws, beyond their comprehension to understand, or their ability to observe; and to remove them to distant lands, abounding in game, and guaranteed to them forever from the intrusion of the whites. The results of this policy have surpassed the expectations of the most sanguine.

The reports of the superintendents represent the early emigrants as living in comfort and abundance, and improving in the useful arts; and hopes may now be entertained of the preservation of the aboriginal inhabitants of this continent, and of their gradual civilization.

Ample provision has been made for their education, and the only duty of the Government which remains undischarged, is the formation of a suitable Territorial Government, and their admission to such a supervisory care in the general legislation as is granted by the laws to other Territories of the United States, and for the exercise of which they appear to be sufficiently prepared.

The subject is confessedly difficult and embarrassing; but the bill introduced into Congress at the last session, and partially acted upon, would seem to offer a fair prospect of success, and to secure to these Indians the enjoyment of all the advantages of free government, which the necessity of stretching over them the protecting arm of Government will admit.

This scheme has been submitted to several of the tribes, and approved by them, and may safely be carried into effect, and remain in operation until experience shall point out the alterations and amendments it may require.

Having received information, early in the spring of this year, from sources to be relied upon, that the Comanche Indians had committed outrages upon our citizens, and carried off some women, whom they retain as prisoners, and that apprehensions were entertained of their committing other acts of hostility, if their complaints were not listened to, and their grievances redressed, instructions were given, with your sanction, to Mr. A. P. Chouteau, to repair to that country, and ascertain the facts connected with these outrages, and the causes of complaint, if any really existed; to give assurances of ample reparation, and exact the same from them, and to obtain the release of the prisoners, and restore them to their families and friends. With a view, likewise, of preserving the peace of that frontier, Mr. Chouteau was instructed to invite this powerful tribe to send a deputation to Washington, that they might represent their own grievances, and, at the same time, become acquainted with the real strength and resources of the nation they have hitherto deemed lightly of, from seeing only a few posts, thinly scattered along the frontiers, and feebly garrisoned. It is understood that Mr. Chouteau has succeeded in this part of his mission. These measures of precaution were taken from the necessity of the case, without any appropriation or legal provision for defraying the expenses, and I respectfully recommend that the subject be submitted to Congress for its sanction, and the necessary appropriations asked to enable the department to discharge its obligations to Mr. Chouteau; and, further, that a small sum be entrusted to the discretion of the Executive, to be expended on emergencies like this, requiring prompt action to preserve the peace of the country.

The report of the Commissioner of Pensions shows the probable increase of the disbursements for the ensuing year, raising the estimate from \$1,593,936 to \$2,532,149, principally from the operation of the third section of the law of the 4th of July, 1836. It will be seen, likewise, from this report, that some legislative action is required to deter persons em-

ployed as agents of pensioners, from defrauding them. This appears to be done, both by withholding a portion of the money received in trust for the disabled soldier, or destitute widow and orphan, and by charging them an exorbitant percentage for collecting the stipend awarded them by the bounty of the Government.

Although I do not concur in a former recommendation to extend the provisions of the pension laws to any other classes than those embraced by the acts now in force, I beg leave to reiterate that which proposes some legal organization for the purpose of establishing a fund for the support of the invalid officers, and the widows and children of such of them as may die in the service. This may be done by making a moderate deduction from their pay, to such an amount, and in such manner, as may be agreed upon by the officers themselves. Similar provisions may be made, in like manner, for invalid and disabled soldiers, and the widows and children of those who die in the service, not now provided for by law. This provision will become more necessary, should the period of enlistment be restored to five years; a change which cannot be too strongly recommended. It is unnecessary to enter into the details of these plans for providing for the support of invalid officers and soldiers, and their families. They may be so framed as to obviate all the objections which have been urged against their adoption, and are called for by every consideration of policy and humanity. Intimately connected with this subject is that of the pay of the officers of the line of the army. The very proper increase of pay made at the last session of Congress, for the civil officers serving in the several departments, conveys an acknowledgment of the necessity of increasing all salaries of public servants which are below a certain amount; a principle which applies, with great force, to the condition of the officers of the army. In pursuance of this policy, I would recommend a moderate increase of pay to soldiers, non-commissioned, and commissioned officers, of the artillery and infantry of the United States, from the rank of second lieutenant to that of lieutenant colonel. The high price of labor, the demand throughout the country for that description of talent possessed, in an eminent degree, by the officers of our army, and which commands the highest rate of remuneration, together with the enhanced cost of all the comforts and necessities of life, render this measure just and necessary, and I confidently ask your concurrence to procure for it the favorable consideration of Congress.

In the present uncertainty which prevails on the subject of the intention of Congress permanently to prohibit, by law, officers of the army from claiming or receiving any remuneration for disbursing moneys, the different interpretations given to the act renders its operation unequal and unjust. In almost all instances where the officers have withheld moneys, and brought suits for the recovery of sums charged for commissions on their disbursements, the courts have awarded the full amount claimed; whereas those who have accounted for all they have received, remain without any remuneration. If the proviso attached to the appropriation act of 1835, for the improvement of certain harbors, which prohibits any allowance to officers for extra official duties and responsibilities, is intended to be permanent, it ought to be fully and explicitly stated, so as to bind the decisions of the courts of law. But if Congress be of opinion that it is just to allow some remuneration for extra services, in cases where great responsibilities are incurred, then it would appear better to determine that compensation by law. I would by no means recommend that any allowance should be made for disbursing the usual and ordinary appropriations for the military service; but where heavy and extra duties are imposed upon officers, involving great risk, from circumstances beyond their control,

and against which no human precaution can protect them, it appears equitable that some compensation should be allowed, which, on every account, it would be better to fix by law.

By your instructions, in pursuance of the provisions of the act of the 3d of March, 1837, authorizing you to select and cause to be purchased, for the use and benefit of sick seamen and boatmen, and all other navigators on the western rivers and lakes, suitable sites for hospitals, a commission of able and experienced surgeons of the army was appointed to discharge this duty. The accompanying report shows that they have performed it with the zeal and ability which characterises this branch of the service; and the contracts made by them to effect the purchase of the sites selected, would have been sanctioned by the department, had the sum been within the amount appropriated by Congress for this purpose. The whole amount required will be \$39,968, being an excess, over and above the sum appropriated, of \$24,968.

The beneficent object intended to be accomplished by Congress in directing this examination, and the purchase of the several sites selected, will not, I trust, be defeated by this circumstance, and in this hope, plans and estimates for the construction of the hospitals accompany this report.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. R. POINSETT.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SELECTED POETRY.

From the Rochester Gen.

STANZAS ON WAR.

How lovely is War, in the birth of its pride,
Its glitter untarnished, its spirit untried;
Ere the breath of the battle has shaken its plume,
Or the dust of the triumph has sullied its bloom!

How fearful is war when the charge has been given,
When its close-linked array is scattered and riven;
When the flash of the sabre, and glance of the spear,
Wreak death in the melee, and rout in the rear.

Wo, wo to the vanquished! why flieth he wide?
The grape-shot and rocket are close by his side;
The crash of the shell, and the boom of the gun,
Will tacky his footsteps till daylight is done.

Wo, wo to the victor! has his been all gain?
Let the roll-call be beaten, and number the slain;
Why waiteth the bugle? why mourneth he now?
Know ye not that his best and his bravest are low?

Wo, wo to the vanquished! his courage has fled—
Wo, wo to the victor! he counteth his dead.
Go hence, list the shout when the news of the day
Shall be borne to his home by some child of that fray.

Go hence, and sit down by the husbandless wife;
Speak high of the glory that waits on the strife!
She shall call on her lone boy—his young eyes are grown
dim!

Aye! what would you more? see, she pointeth to him.

THE ROPEWALK AT THE NAVY YARD.—We understand that the extensive and well constructed Ropewalk at the Navy Yard, Charlestown, went into operation on Tuesday, for the first time. This building does honor to the Government, and credit to the Commissioners of the Navy, under whose direction it was built. Mr. Wetmore of Salem, a highly intelligent mechanic, has been, by the recommendation of the Navy Commissioners, appointed Superintendent, to carry on the manufacture of cordage for the use of the Navy. This is one step we are glad to see, towards permanent economy, and we most sincerely hope it will not be the last, when there are doubtless many opportunities for its exercise.—*Boston Transcript.*

WASHINGTON CITY;

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1837.

The following letter, written by Major General JESUP, to a friend in this city, explaining his motives for the seizure of Powell and other chiefs and warriors, and the measures which were adopted on the occasion, has been furnished for publication. It gives the details of a very interesting event in this protracted war, and we have thought it not only well worthy the space devoted to it, but as due to Gen. JESUP that his motives should be known.

However revolting the violation of a flag of truce may at first appear, yet when we reflect that the General was dealing with savages, who had once forfeited their plighted faith, and deceived him—that the interview was sought by them, and probably with the worst of motives,—it is believed that he will not only be justified by public opinion, on the expediency of the measure, but will be commended for it.

PICOLATA, Nov. 17, 1837.

DEAR SIR: As I shall depart to-day for the interior, and, in the casualties of an active campaign, it is possible I may not return, I desire that the seizure of Powell and other chiefs and warriors may be understood by my friends.

Powell, Coacoochee, the two Hickses, and several other sub-chiefs, organized the abduction of Micanopy and other hostages, in June last. Coacoochee, John Cavallo, (the latter one of the hostages,) with several others, carried the hostages off, and with them their people. I then resolved to take all who were concerned in the measure, whenever the opportunity might present. The capture of Philip, by Gen. Hernandez opened the way to effect my object sooner than I had hoped. Coacoochee carried off Micanopy by force, and if he had been a white man I would have executed him the moment he came into my hands. His father, (Philip,) however, asked permission to send him out with messages to the chiefs and warriors. He returned with one of my hostages, John Cavallo, and with most of the sub-chiefs and warriors who were concerned in the abduction. I determined, at once, that they should be seized and held as hostages for the conduct of the chiefs and warriors out.

I gave Lieut. Peyton, commanding at Fort Peyton, a confidential order to seize them if they should come into the fort. Late at night, however, I learned from Gen. Hernandez that they could not be induced to come into the fort, and the messenger whom they sent in, John Cavallo, my hostage, desired the General to meet them at their camp, without an escort, saying he would be perfectly safe among them, without troops. I observed to the General, that wherever John Cavallo was, foul play might be expected, and I had no doubt the intention of the Indians was to seize a sufficient number of officers to exchange for Philip and the Euchee chiefs, and I directed that he should increase his escort. I requested him to call in the morning for final instructions, and

I sent an express to Lieut. Peyton, with a note, informing him that he would have no opportunity to execute my confidential order, and he must not attempt it unless the whole force should place themselves within his power; but that we must trust to events.

On the morning of the 21st Gen. Hernandez called for final instructions. I then informed him that I was inclined not to permit the Indians to escape, and I gave him a memorandum of the heads of the conversation I desired him to hold with them, of which paper No. 2 is a copy. The General departed to Fort Peyton, accompanied by a number of officers and citizens; among the former were the gentlemen of my staff. Without communicating my intention to any one, I followed to the neighborhood of Fort Peyton, sent in for Lieut. Peyton, and ascertained from him the number and position of the Indians; I directed him to go forward and ascertain whether the answers of the Indians, to the inquiries made by Gen. Hernandez, seemed satisfactory. In the mean time I detached an aid, who had joined me, with orders to Gen. Hernandez to seize all the party if the talk was not satisfactory.

Lieut. Peyton returned to Fort Peyton, whither I had gone, and related to me the substance of the answers given by the Indians. Their answers were evasive and unsatisfactory, and I sent, by Dr. Finlay, an order, of which No. 3 is a copy, to seize them. The measure was so promptly and judiciously executed by Major Ashby, of the 2d Dragoons, that the Indians, though their rifles were loaded and primed, ready for action, had not an opportunity to fire a single gun.

I consider the force of the nation broken by this capture; and though we may have a month or two of hard service, I think the war must terminate early this winter.

Most respectfully and truly yours,

TH. S. JESUP.

No. 1.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

ST. AUGUSTINE, 20th October.

Should Powell and his warriors come within the fort, seize him and his whole party. It is important that he, Wild Cat, John Cowagee, and Tustenuggee, be secured. Hold them until you have my orders in relation to them.

TH. S. JESUP,

Maj. Gen. Commanding.

Lieut. R. H. PEYTON,

Fort Peyton.

No. 2.

Memorandum for Gen. Hernandez.

"Ascertain the object of the Indians in coming in at this time: also their expectations. Are they prepared to deliver all the negroes taken from the citizens, at once? Why have they not surrendered them already, as promised by Coa-Hajo, at Fort King? Have the chiefs of the nation held a council in relation to the subjects of the talk at Fort King? What chiefs attended that council, and what was their deter-

mination? Have the chiefs sent a messenger with the decision of the council? Have the principal chiefs, Micanopy, Jumper, Cloud, and Alligator, sent a messenger? and if so, what is their message? Why have not these chiefs come in themselves?

THOMAS S. JESUP.

ST. AUGUSTINE, 21st Oct., 1837.

No. 3.

FORT PEYTON, 21st Oct., 1837.

GENERAL: Let the chiefs and warriors know that we have been deceived by them long enough, and that we do not intend to be deceived again. Order the whole party directly to town—you have force sufficient to compel obedience, and they must move instantly. I have information of a recent murder by the Indians—they must be disarmed—they can talk in town, and send any messages out they please.

THOMAS S. JESUP.

Gen. J. M. HERNANDEZ.

Commodore JONES has been relieved, at his own request, in consequence of ill health, from the command of the exploring squadron, the equipment of which he has superintended for a year or more past.

No successor has yet been ordered, so far as we can learn; and, whoever he may be, it is probable the squadron will be detained some weeks longer in consequence of the change of commander.

Among those spoken of as likely to be ordered, are Captains W. Bransford Shubrick, and Lawrence Kearny.

A number of appointments (or promotions rather) have been made recently in the army from among the non-commissioned officers. It has been often asserted that our army contained, in its rank and file, many very worthy and capable young men; and it has been uttered as a reproach, that all hope of promotion has been cut off from them, by the practice of appointing only graduates from the Military Academy. The custom having been changed, a strong incentive to good behavior is now held out by the prospect of a commission as a recompense for faithful services; and it is understood that the Secretary of War has formed a determination to reward merit whenever it may be found. Such being the case, the inducements to enlist in the army are certainly greater than they have been for many years; and we may flatter ourselves that its morale will be improved by the accession of respectable, well informed, steady young men.

Should the army be increased during the present session, to the extent recommended by the Secretary, it is evident that the Military Academy cannot, for a year or two, furnish graduates enough to supply vacancies; and, since it is necessary to fill them from other stations, we are glad to perceive the disposition manifested to promote, from the ranks, those who are truly deserving—a measure that, beyond doubt, will meet with general approbation.

"Great bodies move slowly," saith an old adage. The ship *Pennsylvania* has dropped down as far as Newcastle, where she would remain three or four days, for the gratification of such of the Delawareans as could not go up to Philadelphia to see her. The weather, hitherto, has been remarkably favorable, and it is to be hoped that it will remain so at least until the *Leviathan* of our navy is safely moored alongside the dry dock at Norfolk. As the old fashioned bills of lading say—"God send the good ship to her destined port in safety."

Correspondence of the Army and Navy Chronicle.

PENSACOLA, NOV. 21, 1837.

GENTLEMEN: Your favorable notice of my communication of Oct. 19th, induces me again to write you, though I pretend not to decide upon the "interest" that may be called forth by the matter, or manner of doing so. Upon this station, as a naval one, it might be readily supposed that something of interest to the reader, was of every day occurrence; whereas, in reality, there is, generally, but little variation or change of any sort, and we live from day to day upon our own resources and inventions, to kill time and keep off ennui. At this moment, particularly, there is an exceeding scarcity of matter upon which to build a paragraph of naval or general news. The frigate *Constellation* still lies moored near the town, and the *Boston*, sloop of war, is refitting at the navy yard. The former ship will, in all probability, remain where she is until next spring, when, it is thought, she will return north; the latter, when ready, will take a cruise under the command of E. B. Babbitt, Esq., who joined her a few months since. Next to the *St. Louis*, the *Boston* is the fastest ship in the squadron, and it is strongly surmised, by several of the officers, that, when again in company, the *St. Louis* will have a "hard customer" to deal with. Commander Gwinn, in the *Vandalia*, went to sea about a fortnight since, bound to Havana. This ship, with the *Concord* and *Natchez*, may fairly be set down as dull ships, on all points of sailing; and, to my mind, it is very doubtful if they can ever be otherwise. Their models are, certainly, vile specimens of American naval architecture. To these three add the *Warren*, *Falmouth*, and *Lexington*, and you have six as ordinary looking vessels as can be found (of that class) in any navy. The very fact that they all trim by the head, is conclusive demonstration of their unfitness for naval cruisers; and, worse than this, renders them dangerous craft, under circumstances of comparative safety to other ships. In addition, it may be said of all our sloops, that they are over-sparred, and most of them very lazy or doubtful in stays, which last would be a sad defect in presence of an enemy of equal, or even inferior, force. In point of sailing, nothing better can be said of the *Constellation*, though it is generally admitted that her model is nearly perfect. Having been attached to her during her cruise in the winter of 1835, I had frequent opportunities of observing her speed, which, under the most favorable circumstances, did not exceed 9 1-2

knots; her ordinary rate being from 5 1-2 to 6 1-2, and 7. I satisfied myself that her dullness was owing to loss of trim, tant rigging, and a very rough bottom of worn-out copper, being the same on which she sailed during her whole cruise in the Mediterranean, of three years duration. Since her arrival here, in February, 1836, she has been but once at sea, and then went down the gulf with the *Boston*, *Natchez*, *St. Louis*, and *Concord*.

The want of a due proportion of officers to each ship of the squadron, might readily be made a cause of complaint. I believe it may be safely asserted that not one of the ships composing the entire force upon the station, has more than half her complement; some have less. In the Medical Corps, the deficiency is much to be regretted, and ought, certainly, to be immediately attended to by the proper authority.

For some days past, there has been much anxiety expressed on account of the illness of Commodore Dallas. He had been on a hunting excursion, about a fortnight or three weeks since, and, either immediately, or very soon after, was prostrated by disease. His case continues to excite much interest, and, as far as I can learn, may be considered precarious. Four surgeons were in attendance upon him yesterday.*

The weather here is, at this season, delightful, the thermometer ranging from 65 to 80, with a perfectly clear sky, and pleasant sea breezes. In Captain Bolton's garden I saw, this afternoon, a peach tree in blossom.

M. N. K.

*Later advices represent Commo. D. as convalescent.—*Ed. A. & N. C.*

GEDNEY CHANNEL.—The following are the proceedings of the Board of Aldermen of the city of New York, on the 4th inst., in relation to the compliment proposed to be offered to Lieut. Gedney, by which it will be seen that the report of the committee was adopted.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN—Dec. 4th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.—Report of the Special Committee on the subject of presenting to Lieut. Gedney some suitable memorial for his services in discovering the channel named after him, and appropriating \$1,000 therefor.

Ald. PATERSON said that the Committee had at first intended to propose a sword as a memento of the sense entertained by the city of the services Lieut. Gedney had rendered the city; but that after consulting with naval officers on the subject, they had become satisfied that a sword was a more fit testimonial of warlike services, and had, therefore, come to the conclusion that some pieces of plate, with a suitable inscription, would be the most appropriate offering the city could make to testify their appreciation of this valuable discovery.

Ald. BENSON said that the usual testimony of respect offered by a city for civil services, had been the freedom of the city in a gold box, and he thought that this was a very proper occasion for such a present, and that the state of the finances of the city recommended such a course, for he could not conscientiously vote away \$1,000 on such an occasion. He therefore moved an amendment to the resolution, that Lieut. Gedney be presented with the freedom of the city in a gold box, and that \$400 be appropriated therefor.

Ald. PATERSON said that it was unbecoming this city to debate on such a question as that suggested by the Alderman of the 3d. Lieut. Gedney had rendered this city greater services than any individual that had ever lived, excepting De Witt Clinton. When Lieut. Denham, of the British Navy, had rendered similar services to the city of Liverpool, he received not only immediate promotion from his sovereign, but a most munificent donation from the Corporation of the city he had benefited. He was ashamed that the Corporation of New York, the richest city in the western hemisphere, should think it worth their while to reduce the question to one of dollars and cents.

Ald. BRUEN was in favor of the resolution of the committee. He thought the freedom of the city a very poor mode of expressing respect when any one was free here who was able to support himself, or while the city was rich enough to support us.

Ald. PATERSON, having expressed his consent, the resolution was modified so as to make the donation to consist of such pieces of plate as the committee should think proper, and \$1,000 be appropriated therefor; and, thus modified, was unanimously adopted.

ITEMS.

The grand jury of Glynn county, Georgia, have found a true bill for voluntary manslaughter against ROBERT EMMETT HOOE, for killing Dr. G. W. Palmer, of the U. S. brig Porpoise. The act was committed in a public house some time since.

The troops of the United States, stationed at Fort Towson, on our Western frontier, have for some time maintained among them a Temperance Society, and by reason of the constant saving of ninepences, have been enabled to establish a *reading room*.

General Nelson's brigade of Georgia volunteers, consisting of 1100 men, has been mustered into the service of the United States. At the last accounts they were one day's march in advance of Tallahassee, with orders to join Gen. Jesup who was operating at the time on the sources of the St. John's river.

ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

Dec. 12—Paymaster C. H. Smith, Fuller's.
Lt. H. W. Benham, Eng'r. Corps, Gadsby's.
13—Col. E. Cutler, 4th Infy. Fuller's.
Capt. D. S. Miles, 7th Infy. do.
Lieut. C. F. Wooster, 4th Arty. do.
P. Mid. W. M. Walker, navy, Mrs. Walker's.

PASSENGERS.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 26, per steamer Belle of Missouri, from St. Louis, Capt. T. Noel and Lieut. J. Connor, of the army.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 4, per steampacket Georgia, from Norfolk, D. J. M. Cuyler, and Lieut. Bennett, of the army.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS, IN RELATION TO THE ARMY, NAVY, &c.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, DEC. 7.

The VICE PRESIDENT announced the appointment of the following committees, in pursuance of the vote of yesterday:

On Naval Affairs.—Messrs. Rives, Southard, Tallmadge, Cuthbert, and Williams.

On Military Affairs.—Messrs. Benton, Preston, Tipton, Wall, and Allen.

On Militia.—Messrs. Wall, Swift, Clay, of Alabama, Mouton, and Smith, of Indiana.

Mr. RIVES presented the petition Capt. Ball, of Virginia, stating that he had made great improvement in fire-arms.

Mr. BUCHANAN, by leave, introduced a bill to explain the act of June, 1834, relating to the organization of the Marine Corps; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion of Mr. RIVES, so much of the President's

Message as relates to Naval Affairs was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

On motion of Mr. WALL, so much of the Message as relates to the Militia was referred to that Committee.

On motion of Mr. BENTON, so much of the Message as relates to Military Affairs was referred to that Committee.

Mr. HUBBARD presented a resolution to inquire into the expediency of granting pensions to widows, and others, in certain cases. Adopted.

MONDAY, DEC. 11.

Mr. DAVIS asked leave to introduce a bill authorizing the President of the United States to direct the public vessels to cruise on the coast during the winter season, for the purpose of relieving distressed seamen, &c. Leave having been granted, the bill was read a first and second time, and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

TUESDAY, DEC. 12.

Mr. KING, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill to authorize the President to cause the public vessels to cruise on the coast during the winter season, without amendment.

Mr. KING made some few remarks on the necessity of a speedy action on this bill; which was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13.

The bill to authorizing the President to cause public vessels to cruise on the coast in winter, and relieve distressed navigators, was read a third time, and passed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, DEC. 7.

The resolution offered yesterday, by Mr. MAURY, in reference to the claims of Tennessee volunteers who organized and equipped themselves for the Florida war, was taken up and agreed to.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Maryland, modified the resolution submitted by him, on the delay of the Exploring Expedition, so as to read as follows:

Resolved, That the President of the United States communicate to this House the causes which have delayed the outfit and preparation of the South Sea Surveying and Exploring Expedition, required by the act of Congress of May 1836, making appropriation for the naval service; and also, that the President cause to be furnished copies of all letters, documents and communications which have passed between the Secretary of the Navy, the Commissioners of the Navy Board, the officers appointed to the chief command, and of all other officers or persons, relative to all matters connected with the preparation, outfit, and sailing of the said expedition. And that the President also communicate to this House the causes which now delay the sailing of the expedition.

Thus modified, the resolution was agreed to.

MONDAY DEC. 11.

The following Standing Committees were announced from the CHAIR:

Military Affairs.—Messrs. McKay, Colles, Grennell, Miller, Rives, Kemble, Mason of Ohio, McClellan of Tennessee, and Halstead.

Militia.—Messrs. Wagner, Carter of Tennessee, Holt, Allen of Ohio, Griffin, Gallup, Dunn, Southgate, and Dennis.

Naval Affairs.—Messrs. Ingham, Milligan, Reed, Wise, Grantland, Moore, Kilgore, Paynter, and Anderson.

On motion of Mr. HOWARD,

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a naval academy.

On motion of Mr. CARTER,

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to inquire into the expediency of extending the provisions of the act of Congress for the benefit of the surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary army, passed the 7th of June, 1832, so as to embrace those who were engaged in the wars of the United States, which occurred between the treaty of peace with Great Britain, in 1783, and the treaty of Greenville, with the Indians, in 1795, and that the said committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13.

Mr. SMITH, of Maine, moved the suspension of the rule prescribing the order of business, in order to take up the

bill from the Senate authorizing the President to cause public vessels to cruise on the coast in winter, for the relief of seamen and others in distress. The motion prevailed without a division, and the bill was read twice.

On motion of Mr. Wisk, the third reading of the bill was postponed until to-morrow. He said he wished to propose an amendment, materially extending the beneficial operation of the measure.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

FLORIDA WAR.

Extract of a letter to the Editor of the New York American, dated TAMPA BAY, Fla., Nov. 6, 1837.

All the Indians have left this place, and taken to the woods, with the exception of Abraham, the "sense-keeper" of Micanopy. Abraham has volunteered to act as guide to our troops, and his services will be accepted. He says he knows the spot where his master, Micanopy, is concealed, and that the Indians are nearly out of ammunition; that article, it is said, they are continually supplied with from fishing smacks cruising between the Florida Keys and Cuba. About one thousand regular troops are here, and one hundred and fifty friendly Indians, Shawnees and Delawares, all of which take the field in a day or two. Gen. Jesup is at St. Augustine. A portion of the Artillery left here five days since, to garrison Forts Dade and Foster, which were evacuated last summer, on account of sickness. The Marines have been sent to occupy a post at Charlotte Harbor. Of this fine corps, which entered Florida last season, only about one hundred and fifty rank and file, and four officers, are remaining. The escort accompanying the artillery wagon train, returned to camp this evening. They reported that no Indians were met with between Fort Dade and Tampa, although traces of them were continually discovered on the road. One of their "signs" is of a nature so singular, that it deserves to be mentioned. On a sandy spot of the road, which had been smoothed to receive the impression, was drawn the outline of a heart, perforated at the centre, and from the aperture several irregular lines were coursed along the sand, evidently intended to represent the *flowing of blood*. At a distance of a span from the place, two arrows were represented, crossed, and pointing towards the lobes of the heart. What meaning the savages could have in placing this odd hieroglyphic on the path of our troops, affords matter for some speculation. If they continue to play at this game of "hide and go seek," it is difficult to say when the war will be terminated. The best disciplined troops in the world might be set at defiance in hammocks which are inaccessible, except through trails only known to the natives. The sufferings of the troops who remained in the interior during the last summer were very great. The army, at present, is in good health and spirits.

From the Savannah Republican, Nov. 29.

GAREY'S FERRY, Nov. 24.

Two boats have just arrived from Fort Mellon and Volusia. It is stated that Col. Twiggs has been out scouting, but did not discover any Indian signs. The whole army is at this time about Fort Mellon, and will shortly move, when we may expect something of importance, as six or eight days marching must bring our forces in the vicinity of the hostiles, even if they then retreat. Gen. Jesup appears to be in fine spirits.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

FORT CALL, Nov. 14th, }
Volusia, East Florida. }

My last letter was dated Black Creek, wherein I stated that I had just received an order to accompany some troops to re-establish this post. Volusia is about one hundred miles south of Black Creek, and about seventy miles from Picolata. It is one of the principal crossing places on the St. Johns, for the In-

dians, and, in fact, there is no other many miles below and above. We left Garey's Ferry in the steamboat Santee, with one company of Artillery, and at the farther end of Lake George, met the steamboat Camden, with another company of Artillery, under command of Major Gardner, which was guarding a dredge boat sent up to clear the bar at the entrance of the river. This command then proceeded to Volusia, which we found to be entirely destroyed by the Indians, they having burnt all the buildings, leaving nothing but a few pickets standing. We immediately proceeded to rebuild the post, or at least render it defensible. For the first night, we remained on board the steamboat, which had bulwarks constructed all around, to prevent the men from being shot in proceeding up the river, with a six pounder at each of their bows, levelled and primed, and port fire burning. Every man slept on his gun. As we were then advancing into the heart of the Indian country, we expected every moment an attack; and, as it was impossible to say with what force, we were constantly on the *qui vive*. We have, as yet, seen no vestige of Indians, with the exception of their signal fires, the smoke from which was seen in different directions, as we proceeded up Lake George, evidently giving notice of our approach. We have now completed our stockade, with a howitzer at one angle, and a six pounder at the other, and with our garrison of one hundred men, can defy all the force they can bring against it. Since our arrival here, four steamboats, with Artillery and Infantry, passed up to Lake Monroe, to re-establish Fort Mellon, about fifty miles south of this. Yesterday, two companies of dragoons with their horses, arrived here in three steamboats, and have encamped on the opposite side of the river, waiting the remainder of the regiment to proceed. They were commanded by Captain Tompkins.

To day another company, of the same regiment, arrived, in the Steamboat Cincinnati. We expect the remainder of the army, which will operate in this direction, to follow in a day or two. Generals Jesup and Eustis will accompany this division, which will amount to about 1,200 regular troops. We have as yet seen or heard nothing of the Indians, and it is impossible to say where they may be. Colonel Harney proceeded from Lake Monroe, some 60 or 70 miles south in a steamboat, and came into a lake before unknown. We came across some Indian towns, lately deserted, and places where they had recently crossed on rafts. This is all the military news at present.

Nov. 15.—*Postscript.*—Two steamboats have this moment arrived, with the remainder of the 2d Dragoons. To-morrow the artillery will be on their way south.

VOLUSIA, Nov. 22.—Upward of 2,000 men have already passed here, on their way to Fort Mellon. Gen. Jesup and staff have been here for the last four days. All is military movement and confusion at this time. The 2d Dragoons, and 300 mounted men, (Florida volunteers,) are encamped on the opposite side of the river, constituting, altogether, 800 mounted men, and nearly 1,000 horses. Gen. Eustis passed on four days since, with the 2d, 3d, and 4th regiments of Artillery. 1,300 mounted Georgians are on their way, and daily expected. There will be an immense force here. Upwards of 3,500 regulars are in the field, and twice that number of militia. No Indians as yet seen.

Major Gardner's command also leaves here, and is replaced by the 1st company of 2d artillery.

Dr. Hamilton, who was employed as a citizen surgeon, was killed three or four days since, by being thrown from his horse, at Fort Peyton.

A communication has been received from General Jesup, dated Fort Mellon, November 30, stating that thirteen Indians and thirty-six negroes (among

the former Powell's family) have that moment come into camp, and surrendered, which, with five who came in a few days before, make fifty-four who have come in since the troops have been at Fort Mellon.

By letters, dated 27th November, we learn that Lt. Col. Bankhead, despatched by Gen. Eustis to establish a military post on the border of Lake Harney, not finding a suitable site there, ascended the river to its source, about 16 miles above the lake, and ascertained that the river takes its rise in the Everglades, which presented to the eye an interminable extent of marsh interspersed with small lakes or ponds. From the appearance of the grass on the margins, it is supposed that the whole surface of this part of the Everglades, is at times under water. An eligible position, on this part of the river, has been selected for a military post by Colonel Bankhead.—*Globe*.

By the Charleston and Norfolk lines of steam-packets we have Charleston papers of the 8th, and Norfolk slips of the 10th instant.

The Savannah *Georgian* of the 5th inst., says:—Our advices from Fort Mellon are to the 29th ult. Jesup was there. The Cherokee deputation left the camp near Fort Mellon on Tuesday, headed by Co-a-hadjo, for Powell's creek, 50 or 60 miles off, where Micanopy and Sam Jones are to hold a council. They took no white man with them. They were expected back on Saturday last.

SAVANNAH, Dec. 6.—On the 29th ult. Col. Bankhead, with his command, were at Fort Mellon, having returned there a day or two previous from his expedition up the St. Johns, without being able to establish a fort or depot either on or above Lake Harney, as he could not find a suitable place. He ascended the river 14 miles above Lake Harney, to the Everglades. His command was composed of companies 'B,' 'F,' and 'H,' of the 3d Regiment of artillery, and company D of the 4th artillery, Lieut. Pickell, Adjutant, Dr. Maffitt, Surgeon, 1st Lieut's. Davidson and Ross; 2d Lieut'nts Tompkins Mock, Taylor, Phelps and Martin.

Col. Twigg, with a portion of his troops had arrived at Fort Mellon.

The command at that post on Tuesday last, was, including the artillery, infantry, dragoons, volunteers, and staff, 1,639 strong; since doubtless much increased by volunteers from Georgia and other States.

A few Indians went into the fort (or camp) week before last, with *Fanning*, who was sent out from St. Augustine, ten or twelve days previous with despatches from the Cherokee plenipotentiary. They represent the Indians as disposed to come in without any further hostilities, and left on Tuesday last for the council to be held by Micanopy and Sam Jones at *Foul Towns*. If their report is unfavorable, an energetic and general movement of the army may be expected. The troops, we are happy to add, are healthy.

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 25.—A gentleman writes us from Black creek, that great preparations are being made for the approaching campaign, and that Gen. Jesup was confident of early success. The General thinks that Jumper and Micanopy are still disposed to surrender, but are deterred by fear of Sam Jones and his revolutionary compeers, who now control the nation. The hostile party is at present governed, it is thought, by this chief, and is estimated at 600 or 800 men. Their retreat, Gen. Jesup thinks, is very near the sources of the St. John's, on the left bank, and between that place and Charlotte's Harbor. Sam Jones, known by the Indian name Arpiucki, is the hereditary King of the Micasukies, and is at Black creek, an object of considerable interest. It is said he has declared he will remain in

the country as long as he can get one warrior to recognise his command, and fight the whites—that when he can no longer oppose their power, he will annoy them by pertinaciously retreating to his hiding place, which, he says, will secure him from molestation, but not them from his deeds. He is represented as being a well set, neatly formed, and perfectly finished small man, with "locks" white as the driven snow—aged and venerable, yet active as a hind, and as intrepid as a Lion, struggling for the home of his childhood and the graves of his forefathers. He was born in the Creek country.

Our correspondent is of the opinion that the war must be closed in a very short time. The preparations, he says, are not only immense, but distinguished for the intelligence with which they have been devised, are eminently systematic, and cannot fail of success. The St. Johns was alive with various crafts, transporting supplies from its mouth to the everglades. In fine, the most extensive and efficient measures were in progress, to terminate the war; and we trust that success will attend their efforts.

INDIANS ON THE FRONTIERS.—Gov. Conway, of Arkansas, in his message to the Legislature, now in session, uses the following language in reference to the numerous Indian tribes that have taken up their abodes in this new State:

"The National Government, in opposition to our repeated remonstrances, has crowded upon the immediate border of our State numerous tribes of warlike Indians, many of whom were brought in irons, and thus forced to become our unwelcome neighbors, with all their vengeful feelings aroused against the whites, from being conquered, chained, and driven from their homes and the graves of their ancestors. With a sparse population, and limited resources, we have undertaken the burthens of self-government, and we are weak in the number of our soldiery, and almost destitute of munitions of war. Wise policy would seem to indicate that a people so exposed, young, and helpless, should be on the alert, with their applications to the proper source for means of protection and safety."

CAPTURE OF OSEOLA.—It is gratifying to learn, as we do through a source entitled to full credit, that there was nothing dishonorable in the transaction of Gen. Jesup, by which *Oseola* and some of his savage compeers were captured in Florida. There was no violation of a flag of truce in the case. The Seminoles had been distinctly informed beforehand by Gen. Hernandez that no such flag would be received and that the only terms which could be listened to, were those of actual surrender. We have not been of the number who have expended much amount of salt tears, in the capture of these Indians, because we did not happen to believe that General Jesup had done any thing dishonorable in that business. If he or General Hernandez had enticed them within the lines by holding out to them the immunity of the white flag, and then surrendered and made them prisoners, it would have been a black treachery disgraceful to the character of the country and a foul stigma on the American soldier; for faith must be preserved, even with those who have no faith of their own. Treachery should not be met with treachery, even in dealing with savages. But amid all the declamation with which the world has been favored on this subject, we have never seen any evidence that *Oseola* and the other Indians came in under a promise of indemnity from capture. They certainly came in with a white flag flying, but there was no proof that Hernandez or any body else had promised to observe it, and it now appears that no such promise was made. General Jesup did perfectly right in making prisoners of them, and we are glad he did so. The truth is, there is a great deal too much sympathy enlisted for these same Seminoles, and

considerably too much glorification for this half-breed murderer Powell. He as richly deserves hanging as any culprit we know of. He is a treacherous, murderous rascal, and if half the crime that attaches to him, were fixed upon a white man, he *would* be hung—in any other community than one of those who deem it “unbecoming in a moral and religious people” to punish crime of any sort.—*New York Gazette*.

SABINE RIVER.—Early in the season, the Secretary of War, believing that it might be necessary to establish posts along the banks of the Sabine, caused that river to be examined, with a view to the transportation of supplies for the troops at those stations. The report of the officer charged with the execution of this duty was very encouraging, as appears by the accompanying extract, and directions were given to Major BELKNAP to descend the river with his command from Camp Sabine, and remove the obstructions to its navigation, as far as this could be done without the aid of machinery. The accompanying letter will show that this zealous, active, and intelligent, officer has performed this important service, and rendered “the navigation of the Sabine suitable for steamboats for a distance of two hundred miles.”—*Globe*.

Extract from the report of Geo. G. Meade, charged with making the survey.

“The result therefore is—1st, That vessels drawing seven feet water can ascend to the head of the Pass; 2dly, Vessels of five feet draught can cross into the lake, and approach to within a mile of the mouth of the river; and 3dly, Vessels of four feet draught can cross into the river, and ascend it any distance in case of the removal of the rafts.”

SABINE RIVER, Nov. 1, 1837.

GENERAL: I have the honor to inform you that I have descended the Sabine river with my command about two hundred miles, and have thus far rendered the navigation suitable for steamboats. The principal obstruction, the raft, I was so fortunate as to succeed in removing.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. G. BELKNAP, Maj. U. S. A.

Maj. Gen. ALEXANDER MACOMB,

Comm'g-in-chief, U. S. Army.

REVENUE CUTTER WASHINGTON.—This vessel, which was built by Mr. Walter Price, of this city, and launched from his ship yard about four weeks ago, is the largest and finest cutter in the service. She rates at 190 tons, and mounts 18 pieces of ordnance. Her destination is to cruise on the coast from Cape Henry to Sandy Hook, for the protection of commerce and to render assistance, during the winter, to vessels in distress. She is to be commanded by captain Henry D. Hunter, formerly of the revenue cutter Jackson—a very excellent officer.—*Baltimore Kaleidoscope*.

The new and beautiful sloop of war Cyane was launched at Charlestown, Mass. on Saturday. She is 700 tons burthen. The Bunker Hill Aurora speaks of her as a model of perfect grace and symmetry. She is to be taken into the Dry Dock to be coppered.

The repairs and coppering of the Ohio are completed, and she has been taken out of the Dock to return to New York.

EMBASSY TO MUSCAT AND SIAM.—It cannot be news to the readers of this Journal at least, however ignorant the mass of the people may be of the fact, that the U. S. ship Peacock sailed more than two years and a half since, bearing Mr. Roberts as ambassador to the courts of Muscat and of Siam. The ship has returned, but without Mr. Roberts, who died in China, after having negotiated important

commercial treaties with the courts above named. The history of the cruise, which was very extensive, as will be seen, was carefully and ably written, at the request of Mr. Roberts, by Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger, the author of “Three Years in the Pacific,” a popular work, published both in Philadelphia and London with success.

The manuscript has been submitted to our perusal; its title is, “An Embassy to the Courts of Muscat and of Siam;” but it also includes highly graphic sketches of Zanzibar, Arabia, Hindostan, Ceylon, Java, Cochin China, China, the Bonin Islands, of which little or nothing was previously known, the Sandwich Islands, the Californias, Mexico, &c. &c. Here is a list of places sufficiently copious to insure a good book from even an untried pen; we can assure the public that however high may have been the anticipations of the expected work, they will not be disappointed, if it should be published, of which we should hope there could be no doubt. The commercial information alone is of a character that makes it imperative on the government to give it currency. But independently of this consideration, it is highly proper that the nation should be informed and amused by the facts elicited to the mission, at the hand of the government which planned the expedition. This would be the course pursued by every European court; a large quarto with plates would be forthcoming under government patronage, and this is a course which the American people would not only sanction, but applaud, while they remunerated the outlay by purchasing the book. Whether this mode will be pursued, or whether the author must seek a publisher and run his own risk, remains to be seen; we throw out the hint for the consideration of the cabinet at Washington, and trust it will not be lost.

In the meantime, we are so much pleased with the whole production, that being allowed to copy a chapter, we have felt puzzled where to select. As, however, Siam may possess entire novelty to some, we lay the following description before our readers, not as a specimen of the whole, but as an amusing picture of a semi-civilized people. It must be remembered that the officers of the Peacock were at Siam, like Lafayette here, “the nation’s guests;” great attention was consequently paid them, and whenever they marched with their band of music they attracted the usual amount of tag, rag and bobtail followers; while in doors, their accommodation was carefully studied by the heir apparent, Prince Momfanoi, and officers specially appointed to do the court honors.

Since the above was written we are pleased to learn the work will be published by Carey, Lea & Blanchard; government patronage for it has not been sought, but it is not the less proper that in such matters it should have been tendered.—*Waldie’s Literary Omnibus*.

A FRESH MEXICAN OUTRAGE.—We are indebted to a gentleman of this city for the following information obtained from Captain Biscoe, of the barque Ann Eliza, which arrived on Tuesday from Vera Cruz.

The United States ship Natchez, Captain Mervine, arrived at Sacrificios on the 4th of November, and sent a boat on shore with an officer with a communication for the American Consul. On the arrival of the officer at the mole at Vera Cruz, he was arrested under an alleged order from the superior authorities, by the captain of the port, and detained under the pretext that he should have reported himself to the commanding general. After a vexatious detention he was finally released, and permitted to visit the Consul.—*New York Gazette*.

EXPLORATION OF THE EASTERN ARCHIPELAGO.—Mr. Muller, a member of a party of scientific men who were sent by the Dutch Government in

1825, to travel through the islands of the Eastern Archipelago, has lately returned to Europe, the only survivor of the expedition. He explored Java, Timor Celebes, the Moluccas, New Guinea, and a number of small islands, and spent three years in Sumatra, where, in 23 degrees south latitude, he discovered a mountain 2,050 feet high, consisting entirely of the richest iron ore, without any mixture of any other mineral. In Sumatra he lost three of his companions, the painter Van Ort. He afterwards visited Borneo, in company with Dr. Horner, from Zurich, where he penetrated 250 miles into the interior. Here he made a most interesting collection of specimens in the various departments of natural history. Among others he has brought with him an orang-outang of the enormous size of five feet two inches, Paris measure, and seventeen of a smaller size. He explored, during his stay in India, a number of forests and mountains where no European had set foot before him.

NAVY.

ORDERS.

- Dec. 6—Mid. E. S. Hutter, Naval School, Norfolk.
Lieut. S. C. Rowan, detached from ship Relief.
Lieut. A. Sinclair, transferred from frigate Macedonian to ship John Adams.
8—Mid. Samuel Smith, frigate Columbia.
Mid. C. T. Crocker, ship John Adams.
11—P. Mid. H. N. Harrison, expedition under Lt. Powell.

MARRIAGES.

In this city, on Thursday evening last, by the Rev. Mr. HAWLEY, Lieut MURRAY MASON, of the U. S. navy, to Miss CLARA C. daughter of the Hon. JOHN FORSYTH.

In this city, on Monday evening last, by the Rev. Mr. HAWLEY, the Rev. EDWARD Y. HIGBEE, of New York, to Miss FANNY LEAR, daughter of the late Commodore JOHN D. HENLEY, of the U. S. navy.

The Alexandria, on Wednesday evening, 6th inst. JAMES M. GILLISS, of the U. S. navy, to Miss REBECCA S. youngest daughter of JOHN ROBERTS, Esq., of that place.

In Portsmouth, Va., Mr. JAMES BROWN, U. S. N. to Mrs. MARTHA IRVINE, of Southampton county, Virginia.

DEATHS.

In this city, on Friday last, Dr. A. C. TURTELOT, of the U. S. army, and formerly of Little Falls, Genesee county, N. Y.

In Norfolk, on Wednesday, 6th inst. aged 22 years. Mrs. ELIZABETH ANN WILLIAMSON, consort of Lieut. GABRIEL G. WILLIAMSON, of the U. S. navy, and daughter of THOMAS GATEWOOD.

At St. Augustine, on the 26th ult. Lieut. JAMES W. HAMILTON, of the 2d Dragoons, U. S. army.

NOTICE.

PROPOSALS will be received at the Office of the Commissary General of Purchases, in Philadelphia, to furnish materials for making ARMY CLOTHING for the year 1838, and for sundry articles ready made, as hereafter enumerated, viz:—

- Blue Cloth, 6-4 wide, died in indigo, and in the wool.
- Sky-blue Kersey, 6-4 wide.
- Unbleached Cotton Shirting, 7-8 wide.
- Flannel of cotton and wool, 7-8 wide.
- Canton Flannel, 3-4 wide.
- Unbleached Cotton Drilling, 3-4 wide.
- do. do. 7-8 wide.
- Bleached do. 3-4 wide.
- Uniform Caps for Dragoons.
- do. Artillery and Infantry.
- Pompons, white.
- do. scarlet.
- Hair Plumes.
- Bands and Tassels.
- Aiguillettes, (white and yellow.)

- Worsted Sashes, (crimson and yellow.)
- Shoulder straps for Artillery.
- do. Infantry.
- Brass do. Dragoons.
- Epaulettes, Non-commissioned, Staff, Infantry and Artillery.
- Forage Caps for Infantry and Artillery.
- do. Dragoons.
- Laced Booties, pairs.
- Leather Stocks.
- Woollen Half-Stockings.
- Woollen Blankets, 6 1-2 feet long, 5 feet wide, weight four pounds.
- Saddle Blankets.
- Plates and Tulips for Dragoon Caps.
- Infantry Cap Bugles, Plates and Tulips.
- Artillery Cap Plates and Cannon.
- Felling Axes.
- Hatchets.
- Drums.
- Wall and Common Tents.
- Strapping Knapsacks.
- Spades.
- Worsted Binding and Cord of all kinds, and Prussian Lace.

(The quantities and number of these articles will be determined hereafter.)

Casks and Cooperage for one year, from 1st April, 1838.

The whole are to be of domestic manufactured materials. Patterns of all the required Cotton and Woollen Cloths and articles, are deposited in the Commissary General's Office, in this city, for examination. Samples of any of the Woollen and Cotton Cloths will be sent to any manufacturer, on application to this office, (by mail,) and such information, in relation to the goods as may be desired. The Booties are to be of eight sizes, and the Caps of five sizes. The sizes and proportions of sizes will be stated in the contracts. On the samples and patterns exhibited, the contracts will be founded and inspections made, and no article will be received that is inferior in the material or workmanship, or that does not correspond, in every respect, with the pattern on which a contract is founded.

The supplies are to be delivered at the United States Arsenal, near Philadelphia, for inspection, in equal monthly portions, and the contracts are to be fulfilled on or before the 1st day of July, 1838.

The proposals must be in writing, sealed and endorsed "Proposals," and must reach the office of the Commissary General of Purchases, on or before the 8th of January, 1838. Security will be required for the fulfilment of contracts.

C. IRVINE,
Commissary General of Purchases.

Commissary General's Office,
Philadelphia, Dec. 8, 1837.
Dec. 14—138.

E. OWEN & CO., MERCHANT TAILORS,

BE G leave to inform their Military and Naval friends, and the public in general, that, for the convenience of their patrons in the more central part of the city, they have lately opened the large store over door east of Fuller's Hotel, where, with all gratitude for past favors, they trust to experience a continuance of the liberal support of their customers.

E. Owen & Co. have supplied their store with all that the fashionable world could produce in the article of dress, both for citizens and officers of the Army and Navy; and they pledge themselves to give the same satisfaction which they have invariably given to judges of acknowledged taste.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14, 1837—1y

ARMY AND NAVY REGISTERS FOR 1838.
These annual publications will be officially issued early in January. Persons desirous to possess copies of either, are invited to forward their orders to the editor of the Army and Navy Chronicle. As the editions of former years have been very soon exhausted, orders should be forwarded as early as practicable to prevent disappointment. The price will be 37 1-2 cents per single copy—three copies for one dollar—or three dollars per dozen. Subscribers to the Chronicle, who will remit the next year's subscription, without delay, in money current in the District of Columbia, free of postage, shall receive a copy of either Register without charge.